

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 - 20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A directional setting apparatus, comprising:

- a microphone array having a plurality of microphones, each microphone importing an input sound;
- a voice recognition unit configured to detect a certain keyword included in a sound signal based on the input sound and set a directional determination period based on an occurrence time of a sound signal corresponding to the certain keyword;
- a directivity detector configured to detect a direction of the input sound in the directional determination period and output the detected result; and
- a directivity setting unit configured to set a directivity of a prescribed apparatus based on the detected result of the directivity detector,

wherein the voice recognition unit recognizes a keyword different from the certain keyword for releasing the directivity set by the directivity setting unit and outputs a directivity release signal; and

the directivity setting unit releases the directivity of the prescribed apparatus when the directivity release signal is supplied from the voice recognition unit.

22. (Previously Presented) The directional setting apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the directivity setting unit stores the detected result of the directivity detector when the detected result is given before the directivity release signal is inputted, and sets the directivity of the prescribed apparatus based on the detected result of the directivity detector store after the directivity release signal is inputted.
23. (Previously Presented) A directional setting apparatus, comprising:
- a microphone array having a plurality of microphones, each microphone importing an input sound;
 - a voice recognition unit configured to detect a certain keyword included in a sound signal based on the input sound and set a directional determination period based on an occurrence time of a sound signal corresponding to the certain keyword;
 - a directivity detector configured to detect a direction of the input sound in the directional determination period and output the detected result; and
 - a directivity setting unit configured to set a directivity of a prescribed apparatus based on the detected result of the directivity detector,
- wherein the directivity detector repeats the detection of the input sound multiple times, supplies the voice recognition unit with the output of the microphone array having the directivity set by the directivity setting unit based on a first detection result of the direction of the input sound, and conducts the subsequent detection of the direction of the input sound by using a sound other than the certain keyword.

24. (Previously Presented) The directional setting apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the directivity setting unit sets a direction of image pick-up in a camera.